PIDDOCK

ARMS:

CREST:

A small copyhold farm in the north-east of Smethwick called the French Walls belonged to the Piddock family in the mid 17th century. In 1661 William Piddock sold it to John Pearsall of Hawne in Halesowen (Worcs.). [VCH]

The estate which became known as Piddocks farm was situated in the north-east of Smethwick near the Handsworth boundary. The Piddock family, sometimes known as Cowper alias Piddock, was living in Smethwick by the 1470s, and by the 1570s it owned property in the north-east of Smethwick. A William Piddock of Smethwick occurs in the early 17th century, and he is perhaps to be identified with the William Cowper who founded a charity in 1623 but was then no longer living in Smethwick. In 1624 Thomas Piddock, brother and heir of William Piddock who had recently died, was admitted tenant of William's copyhold lands in the manor of Harborne and Smethwick. [VCH]

By will dated 1576 Elizabeth Cowper or Piddock gave £40 for the purchase of land, the income from which was to be used for charitable purposes. By a deed of 1591 the land so bought was vested in trustees, the income to be used in the distribution of 20s. yearly to the poor of Harborne and Smethwick and the residue to other poor people. In 1823 the income amounted to £26. An inscription in St. Martin's Church, Birmingham, recorded that Elizabeth Piddock had given by will 20s. yearly to the people of Birmingham, but it was thought in 1827 that this referred to part of the sums distributed to poor people without limit of place by the trustees of her Harborne charity.

By a trust deed of 1623 William Cowper or Piddock gave property in Oldbury (Salop.), 6s. 8d. of the income to be distributed to the poor of Handsworth and the residue to the poor of Smethwick and Harborne. In 1823 it was said that no rent had been received from the property for many years, but arrangements were then being made for the occupier to pay it, and for its proper distribution when received. [HARBORNE, Warwicks, VCH]

[Birmingham City Archives]: marriage settlement of Joseph and Anne Piddock of Handsworth, 1717;

In the year 1728, William Piddock devised his farm, containing about nine acres of land, at Winson Green, in trust, for the purpose of educating and putting out apprentice, poor boys belonging to the parish of Birmingham, or other discretional charities. It is vested in the constables, church-wardens, and overseers for the time being. This estate now produces about I cannot learn what. [INTERNET]

..... Cooper ALIAS Piddock
m Ann .....; Will (...) 1576/.....

..... Piddock
chn: William Piddock d a1624
Thomas Piddock

Thomas Piddock
(of Harborne and Smethwick) 1624

..... Piddock
m Susanna .....; Will as widow (PCC) 5 Feb 1656

William Piddock of Handsworth
(disclaimed) 1664

Joseph Piddock
m 1717 Ann .....

William Piddock
Will (...) 1728

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c1532 FAS []; *1583 []; *1614/64 []; *1664/1700 []; IGI []

NOT INDEXED

John Couper ALIAS Prooke of Harborne Will (PCC) 9 Nov 1587

Roger Cowper ALIAS Piddock of Birmingham, warwicks yeoman Will (PCC) 6 Oct 1609

Susanna Pidock widow of Handsworth Will (PCC) 5 Feb 1656